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Promotions:

Robert E. Swain, to be professor of physiological chemistry.

Lillian J. Martin, to be professor of psychology.

John O. Snyder, to be associate professor of zoology.

Percy E. Davidson, to be associate professor of education.

Rufus C. Bentley, to be associate professor of education.

LeRoy Abrams, to be associate professor of botany.

Clara S. Stoltenberg, to be associate professor of physiology.

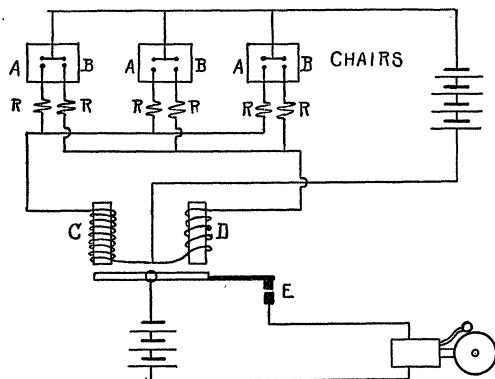
David M. Folsom, to be associate professor of mining.

Galen H. Clevenger, to be associate professor of metallurgy.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

FACULTY BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

FOR the purpose of facilitating the despatch of business the following electrical device is suggested. The method of operation will be evident from an inspection of the diagram of the electrical circuits. All the chairs of the faculty room are fitted with electric circuits as indicated in the three chairs shown. Each chair has two switches; those indicated by *B* are automatically closed when the chair is



occupied; those indicated by *A* are push-button switches concealed on the arm of the chair to be closed by hand. *R*, *R*, *R*, etc., are suitable rheostats all of the same resistance. It is evident that when any number of chairs are occupied the combined current through

the switches *B* will excite the electromagnet *D*. If the electromagnet *C* has twice as many turns of wire as *D* then, when a majority of those present at any meeting close the hand switches *A*, the magnet *C* will exert more pull upon the armature than *D*, thus causing the contact *E* to be closed and the bell to ring.

The apparatus is not intended primarily as a means of taking formal votes but as an impersonal means of calling for the previous question. In place of the bell it might be considered desirable to use an electric sign with the exhortation "*sit down*."

S.

MUSEUM LABELING

ON the first two pages of the March issue of the *Museum News* of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences are many ideas pleasing to those interested in museum labeling. These stand out in contrast to some ideas with which museum men in this country, especially during the last decade, have been overwhelmed. The art of label writing, as there stated, is truly a gift. Many people fail to understand this and few realize that one must sometimes let an unsatisfactory label stand for a time, just as a minister sometimes preaches a poor sermon.

The *Museum News* is almost an ideal example of what a museum newspaper should be. It is dignified, conveys not only interesting but true information and also has a distinct tendency to cause the reader to wish to help not only the museums of Brooklyn, but the museums of the country.

HARLAN I. SMITH

WILKES'S ANTARCTIC DISCOVERIES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The *Zeitschrift* of the Geographical Society of Berlin recently published a short notice¹ or review of my article "Why America should Reexplore Wilkes Land."² The reviewer finds fault with the article and attempts to straighten it out in the following words:

¹ *Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin*, 1910, No. 7, p. 469.

² *Proceedings American Philosophical Society*, Vol. XLVIII., 1909.